REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Final Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 17 being independent. Claims 1-8 and 10-17 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, independent claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 have been amended to recite "a data string of a file path." Independent claims 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been amended to read "executing a logical calculation of file path information of the file." Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figs. 3 and 4 and their respective description in Applicant's specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,664,976 to Lofgren et al. (Lofgren). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following remarks.

The Final Office Action cites Lofgren as disclosing a digital information input system, as recited in independent claim 1 (Final Office Action at p. 3). Applicant respectfully submits, however, that Lofgren fails to disclose or suggest the digital information input system as recited in amended claim 1, for example.

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Lofgren discloses digital watermarking technology in an image management system. According to Lofgren, a digital watermark is embedded in a digital representation of the image 10. The digital watermark includes a watermark identifier (ID), typically including plural-bit data, e.g., in the range of 2-256 bits. The digitally watermarked image 13 and any related metadata is stored and indexed according to watermark IDs (Lofgren at column 4, lines 8-15 and 48-49). Watermark detection software extracts the watermark ID embedded in the image. The extracted ID is used to retrieve file header information from a database (Lofgren at column 5, lines 31-34).

The Final Office Action (at pp. 3-4) cites the "watermark ID" disclosed by Lofgren as "second identification information," while alleging that "contents of a header file" constitute "first identification information." Applicant respectfully submits that Lofgren does not disclose or suggest identification information generating means for generating handle information which is independent of a logical file management system existing in an information generating apparatus, on the basis of a data string of a file path which depends on the logical file management system.

Thus, the "watermark ID" and "contents of a header file" disclosed by Lofgren do not constitute "handle information" or "a data string of a file path," wherein handle information which is independent of a logical file management system existing in an information generating apparatus is generated on the basis of a data string of a file path which depends on the logical file management system, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 2, 7, and 8. Nor does Lofgren disclose or suggest generating handle information which is independent of a logical file management system by executing a logical calculation of file path information of a file, with the file path information depending on

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the logical file management system, as is recited in independent claims 10, 11, 16 and 17.
Nor does <u>Lofgren</u> disclose or suggest that the "watermark ID" and the "contents of a header
file" are dependent or independent of a logical file management system. Furthermore,
<u>Lofgren</u> does not disclose or suggest that the alleged "identification information" (i.e., the
watermark ID) is generated on the basis of a data string of a file path which depends on the
logical file management system.

Applicant further submits that because <u>Lofgren</u> does not disclose or suggest the
claimed generating means and steps, it also does not disclose or suggest restoring the file
path on the basis of the handle information to uniquely specify each of the plurality of files
in the information processing apparatus, as recited in amended claims 1, 7 and 8, or
restoring the file path (information) on the basis of the handle information, as is recited in
independent claims 2, 10, 11, 16, and 17. The "watermark ID" and the "contents of a
header file" do not disclose or suggest the claimed relationship between the "data string of
the file path" and the "handle information."

Therefore, <u>Lofgren</u> does not disclose or suggest important features of the
present invention noted above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are
therefore requested. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their
dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are
recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance
prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this
application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because

Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

      For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by the amended claims and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

      Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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